



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# **Ann Cobb Named 'Outstanding Employee' at the Experiment Station**

by John Zakour

GENEVA, NY: Ann Cobb was named the "Outstanding Employee of the Year" during the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station's Annual Banquet on November 1. Cobb came to the Station a little over 27 years ago as a part-time employee and never left. She has worked for the last 14 years for vegetable pathologist Helene Dillard, who recently became director of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Previously, Cobb worked full-time in the plant pathology department as a research technician for George Abawi, and then for Harvey Hoch.

Cobb's job is divided between applied research and extension activities. She addresses critical disease management issues of vegetable crops by studying the biology, etiology, epidemiology, and control of fungal and bacterial diseases. She also develops integrated control strategies and helps disseminate them to industry and other interested parties. She interacts with students, extension and industry people, growers, and the public.



Ann Cobb receives the "Outstanding Employee of the Year" award presented by Dr. James Hunter, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station Director at the Station's annual banquet November 1, 2002

CREDIT: F. Hickey/NYSAES/Cornell

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Dillard considers Cobb a valued colleague in her research and extension program, one who, in addition to exceptional job performance, also performs excellently as a team player.

"Ann has cross-cutting skills in plant pathology that span the laboratory, the greenhouse, and the field," said Dillard, in support of Cobb's nomination. "People who work with her have the highest respect and regard for her abilities. They value and trust her diagnostic knowledge and opinions on appropriate disease management strategies. Ann is fully knowledgeable of her job and possesses all the needed skills in plant pathology. She carries out her work flawlessly, and is enthusiastic and meticulous in every aspect of her work. She sets high performance standards for herself, and expects no less from others."

One of the things that makes Cobb so special is her outgoing personality. "She is always collegial and willing to help others," Dillard concluded.

"Cornell is world renowned for people with highly developed intellects and brains," Cobb said during her acceptance remarks. "What I think makes the Station extra special is its 'heart'."

For her recognition, Cobb received a beautiful wood-framed "Outstanding Employee" certificate, free membership in Station Club, free admission to all Station Club events for the year, a \$20 gift certificate for Station Club merchandise, and a \$20 gift certificate to the Cornell Campus Store. Of greatest significance, she also received the highly coveted "Employee Recognition Parking" sign, a designation that allows the employee of the year to select any parking space on campus for a year.

Cobb's outside interests include Tai Chi and Qigong, Taekardio, horseback riding, camping/nature, gardening, and jogging. She lives in Waterloo with her husband, Donald, who is a farmer. Their two daughters are technicians, and both have inherited their parents' love of agriculture and science.

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